FROM WASHINGTON.

MR. SEWARD'S DEFEAT.

Correspondence of The N. Y. Tribune.

WASHINGTON, May 20, 1860.

The excitements of the week over the Presidential nomination have been very great at the Capital. The members of Congress generally, though feeling an interest in the result never surpassed on any former occasion, have mostly remained at their post of duty, carefully abstaining from active participation in the doings of the Convention. Almost universally, the great concern and thought has been for success. This desire has overtopped every other, and quite overshadowed all personal considerations. While Mr. Seward's ability and services have been cheerfully recognized, there was a prevailing sentiment, almost universal among the members of both Houses, that it would be impossible to elect him. This conviction, reluctantly reached after long consideration, was most conscientiously entertained, and greatly deepened the feeling and anxiety with which the doings of the Convention were watched. Mr. Seward was known to be strong, not only by virtue of his position as a leading expounder of the principles of the Republican organization, but also as the representative of powerful material interests centering in New-York, and as the focus of extensively ramified political combinations. His own ardent desires and confident expectations, which all were sorry to see thwarted, formed another extraneous source of strength that it was felt would have great weight in a Convention of sympathizing friends. Altogether, I may say, the feeling among the Republicans of Congress, with few exceptions, was rather that of apprehension of his nomination than any other. The least whisper of the proceedings at Chicago as the time of nomination approached was listened to with eager interest and the most painful anxiety. Not a breath of intelligence, real or fabricated, but was scanned with keen eye, and subjected to searching analysis, with a view as well to discover what was, as what would be. And at last, when the time came, and it was announced that a telegraph had been received, saying Mr. Lincoln had been nominated by two majority over Mr. Seward, there was a feeling of relief experienced, and an expression of general satisfaction that seemed to be unanimous. But in no quarter was it mingled with one particle of exultation, but everywhere with a sentiment of regret at the necessity which impelled the result. For it was known how deeply the heart of Mr. Seward was set upon the nomination, and how utterly confident he was of receiving it. He had left the city but a few days before, announcing to his friends that his Senatorial duties were ended, and that he left the Senate in his capacity of Senator for the last time. Such, too, had been his bearing throughout the session. He had a thousand times declared his aims and expectations of being the Republican candidate, and had settled into the fixed habit of regarding his nomination as an absolute certainty. He had entertained largely, and everybody had partaken pleasantly at his hospitable receptions. Kindly and genial, with no more than a natural assumption consequent upon his confidently anticipated honors, Mr. Seward had certainly no personal enemies among the Republicans of Congress. It may be easily conceived, therefore, with what personal regrets the political satisfactions of Mr. Lincoln's nomination were received. It could not in the nature of things be otherwise; for no man desired, *per se*, that Mr. Seward should be disappointed.

Notwithstanding the result, Mr. Seward was at once the choice of the politicians and the people. The great body of ardent Republicans, all over the country, desired to elevate to the Presidency the man who had begun so early and had labored so long in behalf of their cardinal doctrines. This was unquestionably their earnest wish. But along with this feeling there was another quite as strong among them. This was to win the Presidential battle. They thought much of Mr. Seward, but they thought more of the cause of which he had been so largely a spokesman. They were, for the most part, ready and willing, and even desirous, to go for the man for President who was most likely to succeed, whoever it might be. It was otherwise with the politicians who had attached themselves to Mr. Seward's fortunes. They had their own personal ends to serve, and they preferred a poor chance with him to a good one with another candidate with whom they had no politico-personal affiliations. It was this class of men who, to a very great extent, insisted at Chicago upon Mr. Seward's nomination, against the wise and unselfish convictions of a decided majority of the body, that he would not be the strongest nominee. If it had not been for this class of men, the popular preference for Mr. Seward as a candidate would have been yielded, certainly with regret, but as surely almost without a struggle. Not that Cæsar was loved less, but Rome more.

The objections to Mr. Seward as a candidate (I speak of Washington) were twofold. In the first place, there was that leading objection, familiar to all the country, that he held the most advanced position on the Slavery question, and, whether justly or unjustly is no matter, is associated in the public mind with the idea of extreme radicalism on that subject. Then it was known that he held a more clearly defined position of antagonism to the various elements of which the Opposition is composed, outside of Republicanism pure and simple, than almost any other man in the party. He had, for example, fought the American or Know-Nothing element with great explicitness. That portion of the Opposition in such States as Pennsylvania, New-Jersey, and New-York, was believed to be irrevocably opposed to him. In addition to this, the South, and the Northern Pro-Slavery journals, had charged him with being the great Offender against the peace and harmony of the country, the most radical and dangerous of all men; and in this way had filled the public mind, and especially the commercial and conservative circles, with all manner of unfounded suspicions and prejudices in regard to him. These were things which all the world knew and recognized, and had their weight even in the most remote rural districts.

But there was another class of objections, that weighed even more heavily among those more familiar with public affairs, which are not widely known, and which have never been publicly commented on, from prudential considerations. These objections refer to Mr. Seward's principles and practices in regard to the public administration of affairs. He is a New-Yorker, and belongs to the New-York school. If he does not by natural instinct, he does by position and association. He is a believer in the adage, that it is money makes the mare go. At least, he acts on the belief, and always has done so since he has been in Congress. There have been many complaints of Mr. Seward for his uniform votes for lavish expenditure, general and particular, but never any for being too prudent or fastidious. Mr. Seward has acquired great strength among a powerful and influential class by his uniform liberal voting upon all money questions. And this is a source of influence of a commanding character at all political conventions, while it is a source of unquestionable weakness in a popular canvass. It has been felt, therefore, that, in the approaching election, the Republicans, with Mr. Seward for their candidate, would lose an immense advantage which the venality and extravagance and corruptions of this Administration have put into their hands. It was also felt that Republican success, with a prospect, or at least the fear, of a continuance of a similar style of administration, would be too dearly purchased. The future, and its malign results, were deeply apprehended by those who felt profoundly the absolute and inexorable necessity of inaugurating a Republican Administration which should be not only pure but unsuspected at this already-signalized era of political prodigality and corruption. The opposition to Mr. Seward's nomination has thus, to a very considerable extent, been in the interest of purity and integrity of administration, as well as to secure an immediate triumph. Not that anybody would pretend that Mr. Seward was in the remotest degree to be supposed a man of venal or corrupt instincts or purposes, but only that his circumstances would be his master. Such is a candid statement of fact, which it is but just should now be made. J. S. P.

THE NATIONALS GOING FOR LINCOLN.

Correspondence of The N. Y. Tribune.

WASHINGTON, May 20, 1860.

The Chicago nominations are the political event of the day here, as they must be considered everywhere. While few confess themselves not disappointed, fewer still are disposed to deny that Mr. Lincoln will prove the strongest candidate that could have been placed in the field. But they who are particularly struck "all in a heap," are the self-styled Nationals, who all along have been counting with a certainty on the nomination of Mr. Seward, and the consequent free run of the conservative fever which they hoped by constant chafing to produce on the body politic. Indeed, Mr. Seward's nomination was the one thing necessary to the success of their plans, and failure in this respect has "knocked into a cocked hat" at least one part of their programme. With Mr. Seward as the Republican nominee, they counted on doing great things with Bell and Everett in Pennsylvania, New-Jersey, and the other "pivotal States." But the nomination of Lincoln, an old Whig of the Henry Clay school, has completely taken the wind out of that sail, and in every aspect of the case greatly reduced the chances of the combined anti-Republican forces, acting together, separately, or in any manner they can fix it, of preventing a clean majority of the Electoral vote being cast for the Chicago nominees. It is not wonderful, therefore, that these National people should be the chief mourners on the occasion.

It is now quite probable that the support of Bell and Everett, if they continue in the field, will be confined almost wholly to the South, where, through Democratic divisions only, can the ticket, at the very best, be said to have the slightest prospect in a single State. In the event of the Democracy being divided on two candidates, it must be confessed that a third ticket, embracing in its support the larger share of the old Whigs in the South, would have some chance of a plurality in Tennessee, Maryland, and, perhaps, one or two more of the Southern States. It is pretended that Virginia, North Carolina, and Kentucky, would be added to the list. It was only with reference to the possible divisions among Democrats in the South, that they who saw an inch before their noses at the late Baltimore Convention, recognized the least consequence in their proceedings. It is on the unity or division of the Democrats that the slightest importance can be attached to the running of Bell and Everett. Even with the Democrats divided, the chance, which some of the wise ones among the Nationals seem to regard as a certainty, of carrying the election to the House, is exceedingly remote; for, after all, the contest is, and must be, in the North between the Republicans and Democrats. It is clear that though Bell and Everett, through Democratic divisions, or any other fortuitous circumstance, succeed in carrying even a half-dozen Southern States, they would avail them nothing, should Lincoln carry Pennsylvania, New-Jersey, and Indiana—the hitherto debatable States—which, added to those he is certain to carry, would give him a clear majority of the Electoral College. The question, therefore, is not whether Bell and Everett will carry some few Southern States, but whether Lincoln will not secure his election by making a clean sweep of the whole North? The question of how the "pivotal States" will go, was more than half settled the instant the nomination was made. Those States secure, the game is up; as all who can see at all have already discovered.

Right here, let me tell you of a plan which the Nationals have lately been canvassing among themselves—something somewhat after the "balance-of-power" scheme in your State last Fall, which, it seems, some inventive brain among them has been devising. It is this: in New-York, and in the other States where the Republicans have not an undisputed majority, a union of the Democratic and National vote on a single electoral ticket, divided equally, as may be, between the two. The success of such a scheme would be to take from Lincoln the thirty-five votes of New-York, give eighteen to Douglas and seventeen to Bell. Pennsylvania, New-Jersey, and Connecticut, are among the States, as well as New-York, counted on likely to be carried by such an alliance. The scheme is more noticeable as a novelty in politics than for its practicability. In the first place, the Democrats must be brought to believe that they have no chance whatever, and that the most they can do in the contest is to contribute to throwing the election into the House, which this scheme carried out might do. The Nationals contend that in the House Bell would prove the better man. What would the Democrats gain by this? They would have succeeded in defeating the Republicans, it is true; but would that single idea prove enough to rally all the votes of the party, nothing short of which will give success to the alliance?

In support of this scheme, it is argued that in New-York the Republicans have never shown a clear majority; that in Pennsylvania, they have at no time approached even so near to a majority as in New-York; and further, that the late elections in Connecticut and Rhode Island demonstrate that the field might be contested with a prospect of success on such a plan.

I do not understand that the Democrats are as yet a party to the scheme, nor do I know what ground there is for the confident claim that the alliance will be acceded to on their part. The desperate condition caused by the Chicago nominations on the one hand, and a hopeless and divided state on the other, may have prepared the once proud Democracy for an alliance and a shift which would be as devoid of principle as it would be unprecedented in the politics of the country.

THE COMING BALTIMORE CONVENTION.

Correspondence of The N. Y. Tribune.

WASHINGTON, May 18, 1860.

Everything indicates a fresh quarrel at Baltimore on the reassembling there of the representatives of the old Democratic organization. The same thing that took place at Charleston is to take place at Baltimore in an aggravated form. The late speech of Mr. Douglas, which is the ablest of his life, and the letter of Toombs, Jeff. Davis, Hunter, and other leading Southern men, published yesterday in *The Constitution*, settles the question of a renewal of the Charleston controversy in the most malignant form. The dispute is not about terms or about men. It is upon a question of doctrine. The point is made distinctly and emphatically in the speech of Douglas, and in the letter referred to, as to whether the Democratic party shall declare for or against Congressional intervention in behalf of Slavery in the Territories. Douglas says "no;" Jeff. Davis, Hunter, Toombs and Company say "yes." The subject is set for decision at Baltimore on the 18th of June, and it must be decided one way or the other. It does not admit of compromise. Besides, neither party desires or will tolerate compromise. They want the question settled. The letter of the gentlemen referred to explicitly states, that the election of a President at the coming canvass is a matter of no consequence in comparison with the settlement of the point in issue. They say in substance that they court defeat if it be necessary for the establishment of the true faith. On the other hand, Douglas declared in his speech that if the doctrine of the gentlemen who are thus determined and earnest in proclaiming the new gospel of Congressional intervention in behalf of Slavery, is to be incorporated into the Democratic creed, then indeed has the "irrepressible conflict" come in sober earnest, and there is no longer a "national" party in the country; and go to pieces the Democratic party must.

It is thus easy to see that the first business on hand on the assembling of the Baltimore Convention, where, there is no doubt, the seceders will all be at the opening, will be the discussion of the platform of the party on this point of intervention and non-intervention by Congress with Slavery in the Territories. And in this discussion the scenes of Charleston will be reënacted. One side or the other will triumph, but, as at Charleston, the defeated party will not yield. If the South be beaten, we have already seen what it will do in what it did do at Charleston. It is fortified in that action by the letter referred to, which advises the secession of the Slave States as a unit, to meet in Convention by themselves with such aid as they may be able to obtain from the other States, in the event of a majority of the body refusing to agree to intervention doctrines. On the other hand, if the Convention shall have obtained new light during the recess, and a majority conclude to swallow this last and most obnoxious of the prescriptions of the slaveholders, and vote intervention by Congress in behalf of Slavery to be sound Democratic doctrine, then the Douglas men will either bolt outright and run a candidate on the Popular Sovereignty platform, or surrender the Free States to the Republicans without a struggle, so far as the Presidential election is concerned.

Whatever is done at Baltimore, therefore, we may fairly conclude will enure to the benefit of the Republicans; and may do so in the most striking and conclusive manner. If the remains of the Democratic organization take to running two tickets in every State, as now appears most likely, the Republicans seem sure to win an easy victory in the coming campaign. In every aspect of the case that can now be seen here, the prospects of Republican success, growing out of the action at Baltimore, are animating in the extreme. J. S. P.

THE JAPANESE EMBASSY.

From Our Own Reporter.

WASHINGTON, Thursday Evening, May 17, 1860.

RECEPTION BY THE PRESIDENT.

The event to which the Japanese Embassadors had themselves looked forward with most anxious expectation—their presentation to the President of the United States—took place to-day with much ceremony and with many forms as interesting as they were unprecedented. The preparations for this interview commenced, on the part of the Japanese, yesterday afternoon, immediately after the return of the Embassadors from the State Department, where they had first officially learned the time designated for it. Many hours were occupied in the selection and arrangement of clothing, discussions as to the particular observances suited to so exalted an occasion, curious inquiries and speculations concerning the accustomed ceremonials of the United States, with a view to discovering how nearly they could be reconciled with their own. It was intimated that the Tycoon's instructions required the Embassadors to proffer the same testimonials of respect in the case of the President as they would do in his own; but that their sense of the wide difference of custom in this land from that of Japan had induced them to resolve to modify these forms, while yet preserving their general spirit and character. During yesterday afternoon and evening, the Japanese region of Willard's was a scene of great activity. From the rooms of the Embassadors through those of the interpreters to the United States Committee's, and thence back again, hurried messages were continually borne by the principal aids to communication, Namoura Gohajsiro and Mr. Portman. The higher officers drew from the most sacred recesses of their well supplied chests, richest robes and most dazzling decorations, wherewith to deck their superiors and themselves upon the coming day. The under officers brought forth to view standards and insignia of princely rank, carefully setting them in order for their first requisition in this country. And the servants, who were to take no direct part in the impending movements roamed restlessly about, in such places as they were privileged to enter, smoking and smiling with equal zeal, and remarking with evident satisfaction the preparations for pomp and display which so busily progressed.

This morning there was less agitation, all principal preliminaries having been carefully decided upon and settled. A certain air of solemnity, not to say mystery, pervaded the corridors and apartments of the Japanese quarter. Seriousness for a while took the place of that rollicking humor which almost always characterizes the Japanese officers. A weight seemed to rest upon them, and there were fewer echoings than usual of cheerful conversation. The only genuine hilarity was supplied by little "Tommy," who exhibits always an irrepressible gleefulness that no circumstance, however gravely considered by his associates, can overshadow. As the morning advanced, however, the excitement of last evening was renewed. Through opening doors were seen the men of principal rank, arrayed in brilliant garments, and yielding their yet undressed heads to the barber's attentive treatment. Officers hurrying in and out, transmitted orders, and superintended their execution. The arrangements were carried on with much regularity of system, and without confusion. From 10 o'clock until 11½, the leading gentlemen performed incessant little tasks with a briskness that never tired, and a promptness that showed better official training than is commonly known in Washington.

At 10½ o'clock a body of marines from the Navy-Yard marched into Fourteenth street, and stationed themselves in front of the private entrance which is reserved for the Japanese. Crowds hereupon began to gather, and before many minutes the neighborhood was closely filled with expectant lookers-on, to whose eyes, however, no satisfying prospect was disclosed until weariness with gazing had impaired their powers of enjoyment. Up to 11½ o'clock the Embassadors and their attendants held to their seclusion. At that time the door was opened, and, after the proper preparations which, from the superior importance of the occasion, demanded cautious action, the procession was formed in a manner combining Japanese and American usages. It was not a dazzling display by any means, and naturally not very striking to the strangers, for whom retinues of thousands are no uncommon sight. The Prince of Satsuma, on his annual visit to Yeddo, is followed by twenty thousand attendants. But it was interesting to Americans from its novelty. After the police force and the military band came a body of marines, marching in an open square, in the center of which was an officer of the first Embassador, carrying aloft the standard of his Prince—an emblem not unlike many of the Masonic order—elevated upon a beautifully carved staff, heavily adorned with precious metals, and inlaid with mother-of-pearl. The prince of Boojsen followed, in a carriage occupied only by himself and Capt. Dupont. Upon each side walked an attendant of the third rank. The second Embassador's carriage, escorted in the same manner, followed; and so on through the list of the six or seven chief officers. In the carriage thus distinguished, the intrepreters, Namoura Gohajsiro and Mr. Portman rode. The procession moved slowly, and the short distance between Willard's Hotel and the President's House was not traversed in less than half an hour. The streets were crowded to greater excess than on the arrival of the Embassy. Windows were filled and roofs covered on every side. The Treasury Department reeked with humanity, mostly feminine, and very demonstrative in the way of handkerchiefs. The iron fences surrounding the President's grounds were scarcely visible, spectators having fastened themselves upon every part, some clinging to the iron rods, some poised upon the top, regardless of the chances of spiking themselves, which seemed imminent. The impossibility of gaining admission added to the curiosity of the multitude, which reached its last extremity as the procession moved measuredly through the large gates, and paused before the White House steps.

Within the President's house, a large assemblage had long been gathered. The east room was abundantly filled by 11½ o'clock, about which time Mr. Buchanan, who had hitherto been present, retired for such slight preparation as was deemed requisite for the meeting. Officers of the Army and Navy, and members of Congress, together with a great number of ladies, and a very small number of foreign ministers, composed the attendance. Toward 12 o'clock, the company was separated in the center of the room, a wide space being opened from the main door on one side, to the curtained window opposite. This opening was flanked in double rows by the army officers in fullest uniform, with Gen. Scott at their head, and the navy officers, also fully dressed, led by Commodore Shubrick. By the time this arrangement was completed, the sound of the approaching music was heard without, and upon the instant all formality forsook the scene. Ladies flushed with excitement more than by the atmosphere, leaped upon the few available chairs, and there insecurely perched, fluttered unquiet fans, and made many jocose and loud remarks. The confusion grew almost to clamor, and was but partially allayed by the appearance of the President, who, followed by the members of the Cabinet, came in at 12 o'clock through the center doors, and took his station at the extremity of the open space, where Miss Lane, with a few other ladies, already had places. A few minutes later the doors were again opened—this time for the entrance of the representatives of that Empire, which, up to the present occasion, had yielded full recognition and assurance of respect to no nation upon the earth; and which never, in its entire history, had thus been brought into friendly contact with any Government.

After a momentary delay, the three Embassadors, walking side by side, entered the room, rapidly advanced a few steps, paused and bent their heads, then advanced again, and again bowed, and finally approached near to where the President stood, and there remained in an attitude of profound respect. They were followed by the fifth in rank of the Commissioners, Narousa Gensiro, who bore in his arms a box containing the letter accrediting the Embassy to the United States' Government, and were accompanied by Captain Dupont, Captain Lee and Lieut. Porter. For another moment there was complete silence. Then the first Embassador, lifting his head, read in a clear and distinct voice, in his own tongue, his short address to the President.

His words having been translated to Mr. Portman by Namoura, and repeated to Mr. Buchanan with other manifestations of respect by the Japanese, the box containing the letter before mentioned was taken by the interpreter, Namoura, and held before the first Embassador, who drew from it the document, written on parchment and enveloped in a silken covering, and gave it to the President, who, in turn, handed it to the Secretary of State. The four Japanese then retired, in the same manner in which they had entered, keeping their faces turned toward the President, and inclining their bodies at intervals; but soon after returned, this time the fourth in rank of the Japanese Commissioners taking the place which the fifth had before held. The same salutations were performed, and in precisely the same manner. When the Embassadors stood again, before the President, the latter read to them his answering address, giving a few words at a time, in order that all might be easily and accurately translated.

A few words of reply having been offered by the Embassador, Mr. Buchanan stepped forward, was introduced to each, and shook each by the hand. Nothing was said, the Embassadors keeping their eyes turned toward the ground, though without any appearance of departure from their unvarying self-possession. The members of the Cabinet were next presented, and subsequently General Scott and the Speaker of the House of Representatives. The Vice-President was called for, but was not present.

Before the Embassadors retired, some of their principal officers entered the room, and were made known to the President, whom they saluted, without, however, venturing to take his hand. After this, still bowing with formal precision, and never turning their backs, the Japanese finally retired to the ante-room which was reserved for them.

The entire scene was impressive to a degree, of which it is not easy to convey a just idea. The bearing of the President, whose dignified personal appearance added much to the occasion; the quiet grace of the Japanese; their radiant dresses; the plainer, but still sparkling uniforms of the army and navy officers; the glitter of the gaily dressed assemblage, all gave brilliancy of circumstance to an event which, in its graver aspect, had every claim upon the deepest interest and attention. The interview lasted only half an hour, its briefness aiding its effect.

The dresses of the Japanese were much more gorgeous than any they had previously appeared in. The first Embassador wore robes of blue and purple crape, with richly embroidered trousers of silk. The garments of the second and third were of different shades of green, crape and silk, all very curiously wrought. The secondary officers and interpreters were more simply attired. All had, by means of some artificial contrivance, an unusual expanse of shoulder, which gave them an air of rotundity they do not at ordinary times possess. The highest dignitaries had peculiar headdresses, shaped like hollow boxes, and set upon the top of the head, where they were confined by long cords reaching down the sides of the face, and passing under the chin. These headdresses were black, about five inches high and six long. They were not cubical, but were broad at the front, tapering to a point behind. They appeared to exactly cover the spot left bald upon the head by shaving. The officers next in rank wore similar, though smaller marks of rank.

Upon leaving the President's House, the subordinates all knelt in lines, allowing their superiors to walk between them to the carriages. As each Prince passed, his special attendants would rise and follow him, and then assume their places beside and in front of his vehicle. The procession returned to Willard's Hotel in the same manner in which it came, with the same display of Japanese custom, and everywhere regarded with the same interest.

In the afternoon, the unofficial dresses having been resumed, brief calls were made upon members of the Cabinet. Nothing further was done to-day except to consider privately the proceedings of the morning. Many of the Japanese were, indeed, unequal to talking upon any other subject. Some viewed it very gravely, some more cheerfully. Little "Tommy," who has his opinion upon every subject that comes up, and protrudes them with earnestness, led me aside to a corner, with an expression upon his good-natured countenance that bespoke an important revelation. "I saw the President," he said, in very moderate manner; "splendid gentleman; and," he added, with great accession of excitement, "I saw Miss Lane——Ah!"

The exclamation revealed his utter inability to make good his emotions in words.

WASHINGTON, May 18, 1860.

A MEDICAL DISCUSSION.

This evening an important interview took place in one of the Japanese apartments, between a committee of American medical gentlemen—W. Evans, M. D., U. S. Geologist; Dr. Stimpson, of the Smithsonian Institute; Dr. Lincoln, Professor of Anatomy and Physiology in the National College; and Dr. Holston, Professor of Surgery in Columbia College—and the three doctors accompanying the Japanese Embassy—Monsaki, Moryama, and Kawasaki. Science has hitherto looked with suspicion upon the practice of medicine in Japan, considering it as less based upon natural truths than upon supposed supernatural devices. It has been believed that the physician's functions in those islands were in a great measure regulated by the superstitious fallacies of the people; but the results of this evening's investigations prove beyond question that in this, as in many other respects, injustice has been done to the intelligence and mental progress of this sagacious nation. It seems to have been settled, that, in their practice, these physicians of Japan proceed upon the same theories as those which form the foundations of our own medical science; and that although much restricted in development, their system is by no means contemptible, even when fully compared with that of distinguished practitioners.

Upon the meeting of these gentlemen, after the introductions by Mr. Portman, Dr. Evans said that he was pleased to express the gratification felt by the medical profession that this new tie had been formed with the Empire of Japan; that he hoped for mutual advantages to the cause of science from an interchange of pathological knowledge, and that any attentions that might be deemed agreeable and useful would be gladly bestowed upon the doctors by their brethren in Washington. This was translated by Mr. Portman and the interpreter Tataiesi Tokujsuro, and similar compliments were offered by the Japanese. Dr. Holston then began a series of inquiries, which had been so prepared as to test in the strongest manner the amount of knowledge possessed by the foreigners, and to gain clear evidence as to their methods in the art of healing. In view of its importance, I give the whole of the colloquy which ensued. The questions were mostly asked by Dr. Holston, and mostly answered by Monsaki, the chief Japanese physician, though in some cases the latter sought consultation with his associates before responding.

Q. What constitutes a doctor in Japan, and what is the course of preparation necessary to the practice of medicine?

A. The training begins at a very early age. The science is studied in books at school, and when the student reaches sufficient advancement, he takes a place in one of the great hospitals for the poor sick, which are sustained well by the Government, and there is given opportunities for practice and observation. The superintendent of this institution is instructed to give him his care and tuition, and finally, if his course is well fulfilled, to give him a diploma, whereupon he becomes a doctor in fact, and may pursue the profession.

[The course of English instruction in the science of medicine was then briefly explained to the Japanese, who listened with extreme attention, one of them taking notes the while.]

Q. Is dissection understood and practiced in Japan?

A. Formerly it was not; but now, under a system recently inaugurated, it is employed and studied.

Q. Do the doctors in Japan understand the circulation of the blood and the action of the heart?

A. We understand these.

Q. Do you perform amputations?

A. We never do, and do not understand them. One of us has read a book upon the subject.

Q. Is bleeding common in Japan?

A. Formerly we only used leeches for this purpose; but recently this has been changed, and bleeding is now a part of our regular system.

Q. Do the doctors in Japan take charge of cases of midwifery?

A. There is a branch of the profession exclusively devoted to this practice. The others have nothing to do with it, excepting in dangerous cases.

Q. In cases of difficulty, what is the treatment adopted?

A. Incisions are made with instruments, enlarging the natural opening, and with other instruments the child is removed.

Q. Do the patients often die under this treatment?

A. Sometimes the mother dies, but only in rare cases. The child never dies. [The doctor, Measaki, then said that their great care in using these instruments was to avoid injuring the bone; and that if American instruments used for this purpose were superior to the Japanese, as he had no doubt they were, he would feel obliged if he could be provided with some.]

Q. Are secret diseases of women treated by male or female doctors?

A. By females.

Q. What virtue or influence in Japan is ascribed to the influence of God, of spirits, or of the stars, in the treatment of diseases?

A. *The higher and educated classes in Japan—even those in whom there is any degree of cultivation—do not believe that stars or spirits have any such influence.* But in the lower classes such a superstition prevails.

[It was here remarked to the doctors that the case was very similar in America.]

Q. Whence are the Japanese medicines derived?

A. The medicines chiefly used are of vegetable origin, mostly decoctions of barks.

Q. Are compound medicines used?

A. Not often.

Q. Are minerals ever used?

A. Scarcely ever.

Q. Are any of your medicines taken from animals?

A. None at all.

Q. Do you make use of quinine?

A. Yes; we obtained it from the Dutch.

Q. For what diseases?

A. For fever.

Q. In how large doses do you administer it?

A. From one to three grains.

Q. What would you think of a dose of thirty grains?

A. In extraordinary cases we would give ten grains, but never more.

[Dr. Holston remarked to the Japanese, that he agreed with them, and that in excessive doses, such as he had spoken of, he had no faith, though they were sometimes applied.]

Q. [By Measaki, the Japanese doctor.] What kind of plant produces worm-seed? Can we see it?

A. [By Dr. Evans.] We will enable you to see either the plant itself or plates of it.

Q. [By Dr. Holston]. Are the Japanese doctors familiar with quicksilver?

A. We are.

Q. Is syphilis known in Japan?

A. It is very common. [Mr. Portman here explained that it might be considered common according to the idea of the Japanese, who have no means of comparison with other countries, but that it certainly was not, according to ours.]

Q. Did this disease originate in Japan, or was it carried thither by foreigners?

A. We think that formerly it was known, although to very little extent; but within a hundred years it has spread, and within a very few years has become more and more dangerous. It is found mostly in the southern parts of Japan.

Q. Is the Dozia powder [used by the Japanese for reducing limbs of stiffened dead bodies to pliancy] still used?

A. It is.

Q. How is it used?

A. We rub and chafe the limbs with it.

Q. Is it a mineral production?

A. It is—like sand.

[The American physicians expressed a belief that the flexibility of the body, in these cases, was produced by the friction of rubbing more than by any other means.]

The interrogatories now ceased—an hour having been occupied in the interview. Before rising, Dr. Evans proposed to exhibit to the Japanese such surgical instruments and plates as they might wish to examine, and to afford them opportunities of witnessing surgical operations; and also promised to represent to the Secretary of State the propriety and importance of procuring for them sets of the best instruments that are to be obtained here. This last offer greatly delighted the doctors.

Just before leaving, Dr. Holston said that the meeting had been exceedingly pleasant and useful; and that it would have the effect of disabusing the physicians of America of many misapprehensions they had entertained concerning the Japanese medical system. With further compliments, especially hearty on the part of the Japanese, whom I have not before seen so demonstrative, the committee then retired, expressing among themselves the great satisfaction their visit had given them.

SATURDAY, May 19, 1860.

THE EMBASSADORS AT A BALL.

Last evening, at a ball given by the Secretary of State, the Japanese embassadors appeared unofficially, for the first time, in public. The interest felt in this occasion was so great that, of the numerous guests invited, hardly a single one failed to be present. The saloons of Gen. Cass were fully crowded at quite an early hour, five or six hundred persons assembling before 9 o'clock. The embassadors did not leave Willard's Hotel until 10. On reaching Gen. Cass's residence, they were conducted by Capt. Dupont and other gentlemen, who accompanied them through the various rooms of reception, and finally seated at a point most convenient for approach by those who were to be presented to them. Their neighborhood was at once invaded by numberless candidates for introduction, mostly ladies, all of whom were received with the grace and elegance of manner inseparable from the Japanese. The party visiting the Secretary of State was composed of three Princes, and the five officers next in rank, and the two interpreters. For nearly an hour these ten gentlemen sustained unflinchingly the unaverted gaze of as many scores of people as could draw near to them. Their self-possession then, as it always is, was marvelous. The haughtiest stare, with interest eye-glass concentration, could neither move them to embarrassment nor rouse them to the least defiant glance in return. Directly personal remarks, not always uttered, I am afraid, in the best taste, and sometimes unworthy the fair lips whence they proceeded, were listened to by those who perfectly understood them with no sign of discomposure, except perhaps a slight compression of the mouth, showing that insensibility was no cause of their immovable calmness. Toward 11 o'clock, the embassadors rose, and were again led through the apartments, pausing before a refection table, the details of which no interpreter was needed to explain to them. The number of guests had now greatly increased. There were present the members of the Cabinet, the Vice-President and Speaker Pennington, a few members of Congress, many officers of the army and navy, and a very full representation of foreign legations. The number of ladies seemed greater than of gentlemen. The least unwary step engulfed one in surging waves of muslin, silk, and those other kindred dangers which evade precise designation. Mrs. Douglas, Miss Lane, Mrs. Gwin, and Mrs. Slidell were the various central orbs, alluring to themselves countless satellites, seeking from them reflections of fashionable warmth and social light. On their way along the drawing-rooms, the Japanese caught sight of Commodore Tatnall, who brought them in the Powhatan from Japan to Panama, and whom they instantly surrounded with every grateful expression of welcome. For the few minutes that Commodore Tatnall was near, all objects beyond testifying their recognition of him were abandoned. A little later, the Embassadors stepped into the dancing-room, where they gravely inspected the agile gyrations of fair women and brave men with an air of curious interest and occasional deep concern, as if anxious as to the results of a salutary process so much at variance with their own theories on the same subject. After a few more introductions, the Embassadors, at 11½ o'clock, took leave and returned home.

Their participation in this event was, in one sense, a remarkable concession, for custom in Japan forbids high dignitaries to go abroad by night, and custom there rules. The intention of the Embassadors had at first been to adhere to this principle while in the United States; but they express some satisfaction at having set it aside, since by doing so they were enabled to share the enjoyments of so brilliant an evening.

WASHINGTON, May 20, 1860.

JAPANESE ETIQUETTE.

The Embassadors hold firmly to their principles of etiquette. While recognizing the custom which required them to first call upon the Ministers of foreign Governments, they took care to visit only those representing countries with which Japan has opened communications—Holland, Great Britain, France, and Russia. Excepting for these occasions, for the ball given by Gen. Cass, and for a visit to the President's house on Saturday afternoon, they have not left the hotel unless needed for positive transaction of business. This seclusion they will maintain until after the ratification of the treaty, when they intend to enter very fully into the investigation of all that surrounds them. They were yesterday invited to ride to the Patent Office, but declined, until their self-imposed impediment to free association with our people is removed. The Patent Office will be visited some early day this week.

The President's grounds were thronged on Saturday afternoon, ostensibly to listen to the performances of a band of music, but really to catch a glimpse of the embassadors, who sat upon the back piazza, vastly enjoying the animated scene spread out before them. Thousands of people were assembled, and the hum of their perpetual and wondering discussions respective of the dozen eminent guests who looked benignantly down upon them, rendered the facial distentions and manual dexterities of the musicians an objectless pantomime. As it always happens when opportunity arises for conversation, many interesting facts were communicated by the Japanese to those around them. The principal embassador, in speaking of his sword, mentioned that it had been in his family for four hundred years, and added that the swords of many of his friends in Japan were known to have been made at least twice as long.

The Embassadors and some of their highest officers are to dine with the President next Friday. They yesterday sent their formal acceptance of his invitation. It was a document of gigantic dimensions, inclosed in an envelope about a foot in length and correspondingly broad. The contents, on unfolding, expanded to even ampler proportions. A huge paper was thickly covered with the curious configurations of the "Jsie," or highest order of Japanese writing. The two inferior and simpler orders are not used on State occasions. Appended was a Dutch translation, which better fulfilled the expectations of those who received it.

To-day the Japanese officers have been guided through all parts of the hotel by Mr. Willard. They professed great satisfaction with all the details of management, as, indeed, they do with every worthy thing that comes within their observation. The operations of the laundry, the cooking apparatus, and the mechanism of the bell-wires especially interested them.

GUNNERY FOR THE JAPANESE.

The interview last Friday evening between the Japanese and American physicians, was only the first of a series of practical discussions, to which the visitors have been, or are to be, invited. The second took place on Saturday afternoon, when Commander Dahlgren of the Washington Navy-Yard exhibited to the principal Embassadors a number of the most finely-wrought American firearms, giving, also, explanations of their mechanism, and illustrations of the manner in which they are used. Commander Dahlgren was introduced by Lieut. Porter, as the officer having charge of the Ordnance Department at the Navy-Yard, and as having made the subject under consideration his especial study for a long time. When it was mentioned that the heavy guns the Embassadors had seen on board the Powhatan were of Dahlgren's design, the Japanese present expressed in warmer terms than before their satisfaction at meeting with him. Two marines, sergeant and private, then came in, and, under direction of the former, the latter went through the drill peculiar to the sword-bayonet rifled musket, which was carefully elucidated, the Japanese showing evident understanding of the process, notwithstanding its novelty to them. A number of firearms were then submitted to inspection, with the operations of which the Embassadors expressed themselves quite content.

Ogoori Boongo no Kami, the third Embassador, who